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Mila, Lewis for Cosmos game

Paul Lewis (Ajax) and Stefan Mila (Polonia) the most successful players in the State League this season, have been included in an 18-man Victorian squad for a game against the New York Cosmos at Olympic Park on Sunday, October 10.

Cosmos will be paid a \$50,000 match fee and the promotion will cost the Victorian Soccer Federation at least \$100,000, including wages, advertising, accommodation and ground hire.

It is the most expensive federation promotion yet undertaken in Australia.

The ASF earlier had turned down the chance to field the Socceroos against the Cosmos, whose stars include Franz Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto, Johan Neeskens, Wim Rijsebergen, Vladislav Bogicevic and Georgio Chinaglia.

The VSF currently is trying to sell TV rights for the game.

It would be shown live in Sydney, and probably the following day in Melbourne.

Channel 8/28 already has shown interest.

Meanwhile, the Victorian squad starts training for the match today (Wednesday).

The others added to the squad are: goalkeeper Steve Petter and stopper David Jones of Macedonia; forwards Dave Brogan of Croatia and Carl Gilder of George Cross; midfielder Fabio Incantalo of Juventus; and centre back Stewart Cannell of Ajax.

State coach Tim White and his assistant Bobby

McLachlan picked a squad in late July, but changes were necessary because four of its members will be in Singapore with the national team at the time of the game against Cosmos.

They are Steve Blair, Alan Davidson and Charlie Egan of Hellas and Gary Cole of Heidelberg.

The Victorian squad is:
GOALKEEPERS: Oliver (H'berg), Petter (Mak).

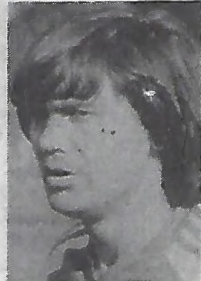
DEFENDERS: Yzendoorn, Yankos ('berg), Gardiner, Cannell (Ajax), Jones (Mak), G. Bennett (Hellas), Mila (Polonia).

MIDFIELDERS: Ilieski (JUST), J. Campbell (H'berg), Murphy (Croatia), Incantalo (Juve).

Forwards: Gilder (Geo. Cross), Paul Lewis (Ajax), Dave Brogan (Croatia), Doug Brown (Mak), G. Campbell (Hellas).



Paul Lewis



Stefan Mila

State League, PSL clubs to clash in indoor series

A blast, a puzzle, a ban, a medal...



Four men in the news. There's more inside.

The biggest and best indoor soccer competition yet staged in Australia may take place in Melbourne next year.

A major sponsor has been found, willing to put in a reported \$20,000 to stage the competition which would involve all four Melbourne PSL clubs and all Victorian State League clubs.

Channel 8/28 is keen to cover the proposed competition.

Victoria's State Indoor Sports Centre is the likely venue.

The contractor in charge of building the \$10.5 million centre should finish the project by next March and the VSF hopes to stage the weekly competition on Wednesday nights.

Neil Tresize, Victoria's Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation is considering an application from the VSF to use the indoor centre.

Indoor soccer is a big hit

in America and the sport's rapid-fire action makes it a great spectacle, either live or on TV. Crowds of about 20,000 are common in America and the franchise for a club, which cost around \$25,000 five years ago, now is worth close to \$1.5 million.

World-class players like Pele and Franz Beckenbauer claim that the indoor game is a great training ground for improving skills.

Socceroo Promotions staged a successful indoor competition at Melbourne's Festival Hall last year and the same organisation runs the current indoor tournament at Slough Road, Altona.

The VSF can expect excellent media coverage for its planned competition.

Watson to sink Saints

Sydney City Hakoah should beat St George Budapest at St George Stadium on Sunday (kick-off 3pm), and go straight into the final of the PSL top four series, set down for October 3.

This first semi-final promises to be a fiery affair. Big Hakoah stopper Steve O'Connor used his physical strength to good advantage the last time these sides met. Just ask Saints' midfielder Peter Stone, the target of a bone-crunching, elbows-and-all tackle from O'Connor which left Stone stunned and dazed.

That match was highlighted by Jim Cant's dominance of St George's ace striker Dez Marton. Sadly for Saints, young Dave Skeen wasn't able to do a similar job on Hakoah's livewire winger Joe Watson.

No doubt that man-to-man approach will be adopted again on Sunday by Saints' Coach of the Year Frank Arok and Hakoah's shrewd Scot, Eddie Thomson.

With Marton under close guard Saints' strike force would lose most of its bite.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

the best front runners in the land. His close ball skill and ability to turn defenders are dynamite, especially inside the opposition area where he can do most damage.

Tail Paul Wilkinson and former Scottish international Ted Macdonald probably will be fighting to win a striking berth alongside Marton as it's odds-on that talented youngster Robbie Slater, Arok's find of the season, will be on a wing as part of Saints' front trio.

But there will be no better winger afield than the ageless Watson who deservedly has been enigmatised since the PSL's inception in 1977. Not just by the Press but also by opposing fullbacks and coaches and even with the amazing depth in Hakoah's squad, Watson will leave a huge hole once he goes.

But let's not talk of sad things. Let's remember the taunting shrug of the shoulders, twist of the hips, that pin-point cross to John Kosmina or David Mitchell. That's wee Watson at his best. Pity help Skeen on

It will be a huge test for Saints' young fullback. But I'm a Skeen fan and when it comes to commitment there's not a full-back in the country to match him. Certainly there's none better at going forward but with Watson to contend with, Skeen may have to curtail his ambition. If so Saints will lose a lot of drive.

Kosmina and Mitchell form the best striking partnership in Australia. No doubt both will have markers, with Saints' new Socceroo David Ratcliffe sweeping up at the back.

This is St George Budapest's first appearance in the top four series. The competition started in 1978 but was not run last year due to the World Youth Championships. Hakoah, on the other hand, has featured in every top four series, winning twice, in 1978 and 1979.

History favors Hakoah. So does current form. The 1982 PSL champion should win. Likely line-ups: SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH: CLARKE, CANT, O'CONNOR, ROBERTSON, BRUCE, PATIKAS, SPANOS, BARNES, WATSON, KOSMINA, MITCHELL. ST GEORGE BUDAPEST: FRASER, SKEEN, RATCLIFFE, M. O'SHEA, R. O'SHEA, STONE, J. O'SHEA, BARTON, MARTON, WILKINSON, SLATER.

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Wollongong has defied all odds

There's an air of excitement and expectation in the Wollongong camp that has not been felt the past two years.

The last time anything similar came to the fore was when the newly-formed club was accepted into the Phillips League in late 1980.

And now, after hardly 20 months of existence, the club is on the verge of creating Illawarra soccer history.

On Sunday afternoon, at Melbourne's Middle Park, Wollongong takes on Heidelberg in hopefully its first of a series of matches in the 1982 Top Four series.

Victory for the Wolves would give them the right to hold the final against either Sydney City or St George at

the Wollongong Showground. After the side's miserable start to the season, losing five games on the trot, few would have dared predict such an honorable position at the end of hostilities.

Indeed heavy defeats inflicted by South Melbourne Hellas, APIA-Leichhardt and West Adelaide did not depict a healthy picture and the word "relegation" did get a mention occasionally.

The turning point came on May 23 at Pratten Park. Playing a tactically perfect match, the Wolves beat fancied Sydney Olympic 1-0 to cause a major upset.

From that stage onwards the side never looked back and played some inspired soccer in conjuring up a magical 10-match unbeaten run that shot it to high places in the championship.

Towards the end of the season the pressures of home expectation almost unsettled its concentration and the departure of coach Ken Morton did little to infuse the right spirit.

But Wollongong clinched third spot with two hard-fought wins at home over Olympic and Brisbane City.

The main protagonists behind the Wolves' success were goalkeeper Jim Preston, stopper Arno Bertogna and striker Phil O'Connor.

Wollongong might not be as technically gifted or tactically efficient as Sydney City, the nearest Australian football has come to producing a professional outfit.

But they have made up for this with an incredible sense of team spirit and an astonishing refusal to give in to great odds.

The Wolves in fact managed to hold Sydney City to a 3-3 draw in Sydney, scoring two goals with a man short.

They even drew 2-2 with



Philip Micallef

APIA at Lambert Park after trailing 2-0 at half time.

And when Brisbane City took the lead in the last 30 minutes of the championship in Wollongong, the locals came back with three goals out of nowhere to turn defeat into victory.

And it is with this fighting spirit that Wollongong takes on Heidelberg on Sunday.

The Wolves took four points off Heidelberg this year and the Melbourneites would be justified in treating this match cautiously.

But whatever happens on Sunday at Middle Park, the Wolves will have already won their own little championship — that of establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the national soccer fraternity.

And with the experienced Willie Wallace as coach there should be no reason why the club's escalation should not continue next year.

Yzendoor's back, O'Connor a threat



Heidelberg, from left, back row: Tansey, Yankos, Macleod, Oliver, Cole, Selemidis, McMillan. Front: Bekiaris, Campbell, Taylor, Valentine, Paton.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Heidelberg Alexander will have talented sweeper John Yzendoor back from suspension when it takes on Wollongong in the big top four clash at Middle Park on Sunday at 3pm.

The former Socceroo sweeper has been injured for most of this season and his presence in Len McKendry's squad means that Heidelberg will be at full strength.

The Bergrs Gary Cole-Jamie Paton striking partnership should be back to its best, with Cole determined to improve on his dismal form in last Sunday's Cup final. That form was due to injury.

If Arno Bertogna is fit Wallace probably will give him the job of tagging Cole but Bertogna too is carrying an injury, and pulled out of Les Scheinflug's Socceroo squad last week.

If Bertogna lines up alongside Cole he won't want to reflect on his old Newcastle days, especially one sunny Sunday at Olympic Park in 1980 when Cole ran rings around Bertogna. Cole scored twice in the last 17 minutes as Heidelberg cruised to a 4-0 win. Cole's second goal came when Jamie Paton put Bertogna under pressure, forcing the big stopper to mull an attempted passback to 'keeper Phil Dando. Cole pounced and that was that.

Of course Bertogna is two years older and wiser. He's having probably his best season in the PSL so his confidence will be sky high if he can shrug off injury worries and play on Sunday.

Yzendoor will be an automatic selection if Don Macleod fails to recover from the injury which forced him to be replaced during the Cup final.

No doubt Phil O'Connor's performance will play a major part in determining Wollongong's fate. The flying winger may be too quick for Jim Tansey but if he lines up on the left then the rugged tackling of

Arthur McMillan may slow O'Connor down.

Wollongong's midfield boasts Lee Adam at its core. The tall, blond Adam is good in the air and will have to be watched when he ghosts into the Heidelberg area. Left-flanking midfielder Peter Tredinick has been scoring as regularly as in previous seasons. Tredinick's biggest asset is pace, especially off the mark, and this former youth international will have an intriguing clash with Theo Selemidis.

I expect Heidelberg to win. Jim Campbell is the best midfielder on show and he may just pick Sunday to turn it on and embarrass Socceroo coach Scheinflug, who strangely passed over this dynamic midfielder when selecting his squad to contest the Merlion Trophy in Singapore.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: OLIVER or REILLY — MC MILLAN, YANKOS, YZENDOOR, TANSEY, SELEMIDIS, CAMPBELL, TAYLOR, VALENTINE, COLE, PATON
WOLLONGONG: PRESTON — WILLIS, BERTOGNA, AINSWORTH, DUNLEAVY, WALDRON, ADAM, FLEMING, TREDINICK, COTTON, O'CONNOR

HELLAS, MORWELL, AJAX: McLACHLAN JUST DON'T SAY

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Where will Bobby McLachlan be next year? That's the most frequently asked question in Victorian soccer and three clubs are in the running to win the services of the little Scot — his present club Green Gully Ajax, South Melbourne Hellas and Morwell Falcons.

McLachlan has been quoted as saying that if Ajax — State League champion for the past two seasons — wins a place in the 1983 PSL then he would stay with the club he joined in 1980.

"Look, it's a bit premature to talk about these things just now and I'm honest, I don't know what I'll be doing next year," said McLachlan.

"Green Gully is getting a lawyer to frame its application for the PSL even though a Victorian-based club didn't finish in the relegation zone. Even the structure of the PSL for next year is up in the air. There's no sponsor yet and in some circles there's still talk about regionalisation."

McLachlan has been linked recently with Hellas and Morwell Falcons even though Green Gully Ajax president Guy Spiteri says, "I'm 90 per cent sure that Bobby will be with us next year. He's often told me that it would break his heart to leave."

However the recent departure of Hellas coach Tommy Docherty to Sydney Olympic to take up a two-year contract, has fuelled the rumors that McLachlan would join Hellas.

"South Melbourne Hellas is the humble club of Australia," said McLachlan. "Other clubs win a few more games but they can't take away the charisma surrounding Hellas. Sydney City has proved itself to be the best team in Australia and it's unfair that it doesn't attract the crowds its team deserves but there's no taking anything away from Hellas in the glass state."

"Hellas has signed a lot of good players in the past few years but they've probably played like individuals. Other sides may not have as much talent but they're a lot tighter as a team unit. When I've watched Hellas this year I've had the feeling that its supporters are hoping that when Charlie Egan gets the ball he'll score and that will put pressure on the opposition to get two goals to win. It's a bit hopeful and as most people know that's certainly not the way it is at Green Gully. We build up play a lot more. It strikes me that good individual players at Hellas do good individual things."

"And of course confidence means a lot. The players must have been disheartened during the coaching upheavals this year."

"Maybe the players are there at Hellas. Maybe the club doesn't have to spend thousands to win the PSL title. I don't know. All I can say is that if you sat back in 1977 and said that by 1983 South Melbourne Hellas wouldn't have won a title you would have been laughed at. There's something wrong there, on or off the field. I don't know what it is."

"But the present situation is only temporary. Let's just say that Hellas has lost a little bit of face but the club has everything there to win a championship. I know that."

State League newcomer Morwell Falcons strongly is rumored to be hot on McLachlan's heels. The Melbourne Press made much of recent rumors that Falcons president Don di Fabrizio wanted McLachlan to coach there next

BANNON EGAN?

Charlie Egan, named in the final national squad last week, may be barred from playing in the Merlion Trophy tournament in Singapore next month.

He is the only one of the 17 players who is not naturalised.

Yet the Singapore federation has made it plain that the tournament is for full national teams and only naturalised or home-grown players are acceptable in such tournaments.

The other competing countries include South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Egan, the little South Melbourne Hellas striker, was impressive in training last week, working with John Kosmina as joint striker.

The squad was reduced to 17 by the omission of Tony Brennan (Canberra), Marshall Soper (APIA), Bobby Russell (Adelaide City) and Mark Janakovic (Marconi) who are required to train on as emergencies.

Arno Bertogna withdrew due to a groin injury.

"We have had determination and stamina before, but not ball skills. This team consists of ball players who can command respect around Asia, and hopefully in a year or two, all round the world," said Scheinflug, who regards the squad as the most skilful Australia has had.

The squad is:

Goal: Martyn Crook, Bruce James

Defenders: Rob Wheatley, Alan Davidson, Alan Niven, Steve Blair, Tony Henderson, David Ratcliffe.

Midfield: Gary Byrne, Peter Katholos, George Christopoulos, Peter Ras-

kopoulos.

Forwards: Phil O'Connor, David Mitchell, John Kosmina, Gary Cole, Charlie Egan.

The Singapore tournament, involving eight nations split into two groups, will commence on October 5, with three preliminary rounds, and then semi-finals and final.

It will be the first international involvement for the Socceroos since elimination from this year's World Cup by New Zealand.

"I could find a better team, but some of those players probably would not be good enough in three years time. It is best for me to look to the future when making selections," said Scheinflug.

"These players are footballers, not kick and rush merchants. They don't use English, European or South American tactics, but are blending into an Australian style which will be distinctly ours."

"Australians sportsmen are capable of reaching the top in any sport including soccer. We have to pick the right combination between complete speed and skill and I hope to find this within the next 12 months," he said.

Scheinflug was insistent that the past must be forgotten and be replaced by a new era.

"Whenever players compete for this country, I want the youngsters to look up to them. I don't want any player in my squad who forfeits the respect of the public," he stressed.

Steve Blair, David Mitchell, Rob Wheatley and Peter Ras-

kopoulos gained invaluable experience in the World Youth Championships, while others such as Davidson, Katholos, Kosmina and Cole have already played World Cup.

The naming of four players in a train-on squad is a precaution by the coach because of competition matters still to be played.

Many of the players will be involved in the Top Four competition which starts on Sunday and the grand final will be held on October 3, the day the team departs for Singapore.

Australia's policy will be to attack at all times.

"I've been aiming for the right squad since taking over the youth team, and I am confident these players will start properly by regaining respect from Asia for Australia soccer," he said.

Meanwhile, Scheinflug's plan for an Indonesian tour by the national youth team, has fallen through.

The tour was to have helped prepare the squad for the World Youth Championship qualifying games in Port Moresby in December.

But the Indonesian FA said it could not accommodate the youth squad at the moment because it has too many other commitments.



Charlie Egan

PSL 'expensive luxury': Papasavas

The public relations company employed by the national league has been given another three months to try to find a new league sponsor.

Consolidated Royce Public Relations has failed so far to find a company to replace Philips Industries.

National League chairman Sam Papasavas announced this at the national player awards last week.

He said if no sponsor is found within three months, the league would consider joint sponsorship proposals.

He stressed however, that the league

would continue in its present form next season — an obvious reference to speculation that it may be regionalised into a north and a south division.

"After six years it's obvious that our league is an expensive luxury but to stop now would be a retrograde step for soccer," Papasavas said.

He also called for federal government support for soccer.

"Our World Cup failure last year was a huge anti-climax for the game, but steps are being taken to ensure that past mistakes are not repeated."

"Countries like Cameroon, Kuwait and Algeria have shown us what can be done in a relatively short time with government and industry support."

"Soccer has not been getting such support here."

"The government should realise that neighboring countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, the Koreans and Japan have never heard of Rugby and so it should use soccer as a vehicle for international togetherness."

LAURIE SCHWAB



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Is soccer doomed? Charlie Perkins sounds the alarm

"... pure artistry: like good opera and good wine, the more you have the more pleasure it gives ... a cultural thing, an ephemeral experience, something uplifting and good — not brutalising and savage like so many other ball-playing sports."

The speaker is Australia's most controversial Aboriginal — Charlie Perkins, 47 next birthday, was talking about the sport — soccer — he admits runs a close second to his life's greatest passion ... the advancement of Australia's Aboriginal people.

But as if he could not help himself, controversy-laden quotes were there. A mere sample:

- Soccer will remain the sleeping giant of Australian sport unless many of its senior administrators move aside;
- too many administrators are bankrupt of ideas;
- soccer administration is an "utter disgrace";
- massive work has to be done to rekindle interest in the game after the disaster of the World Cup elimination and dwindling PSL crowds;
- to deny incorporation of the PSL, a \$4.8 million enterprise, is both "ludicrous and selfish";
- "I love soccer", Perkins says, and readily admits it has been one of the stepping stones that enabled him, as a kid at an Aboriginal boys' college in Adelaide,

'We have lost so much community support that the situation is deadly serious'

aid, to break the Aboriginal syndrome of obscurity and poverty, then — in the late 50s — even more a reality than the 1980s.

"Aussie Rules was the game", says Charlie, "and, showing the Aboriginal's natural athletic and sporting ability, most of us played it well."

"I must have been 14 before I even saw a soccer match. When I did I thought: This is for me! This has skill, flair, imagination."

Perkins was hooked and proceeded to play South Australian State League soccer with Port Adelaide. Then, little known to Australians, Perkins reached for the bright lights of English soccer.

You can imagine his reaction to the biting cold of England's Liverpool — Beatles' country — and the population's equally biting Scouse accents?

"It was like a foreign language," Perkins says. "I trialed with Everton but I did not like the climate or Liverpool. I was offered terms but I left."

"I went to nearby Wigan and for a while I worked in the coalmines. The people were marvellous to me. I loved them — still do."

"It was from Wigan that I got my chance to play with Bishop Auckland, then the world's top amateur side — sham amateur really, one that could — and did — regularly defeat many



Peter Windsor

the interests of Aboriginals."

Does he still?

"Of course, perhaps even more than before," says the man who today heads a near \$52mil-a-year concern, known as the Aboriginal Development Commission, whose areas of interest range from Aboriginal housing to profit-making business ventures.

"So much has to be done — just like in soccer," he says.

He returns then to his 'Soccer, the sleeping giant' theme and his outspoken attacks on soccer's administration.

"Failure to gain PSL sponsorship, the World Cup elimination, lack of commercial television coverage, the general malaise that afflicts the whole game is an utter disaster," he says.

"Administrators just do not seem to realise that they have a dynamic sport but that a totally new approach to developing and presenting the game is needed."

"I do not have the solutions but one thing I regard as essential is the immediate appointment of a firm of reliable management consultants to put forward an administrative blueprint so that soccer can aim for positive, achievable goals."

"Given that, the various local, State and National levels of the game have to pull together rather than asunder."

"So often it is said that soccer is its own worst enemy. That remark is a truism."

"We have too much ad hocery rather than long-term forward planning; too much autocratic rule rather than sound internal management structures and anyone remotely connected with soccer knows who I am pointing the finger at."

"We have lost so much community support that the situation is deadly serious."

"We are going out backwards."

Pausing only momentarily to draw breath, Perkins adds:

"We also need a proper framework for youth soccer, a framework to professionally develop the well of talent Australia has to offer."

Is soccer already doomed in the Antipodes?

"Not doomed — but bloody well nearly so," Perkins says.

"It's as bad as that."

And what of his own club, Canberra Arrows? It has been relegated and must go cap in hand seeking re-admission to the PSL.

"I don't believe we will be left out," says Perkins.



Charlie Perkins always has been a fighter. Here he is (centre) with two of his children, Hetti and Adam, joining Mr Bob McLeod (sunglasses) and Mr Allan Sharpley in a demonstration for Aboriginal rights.

"two other clubs also had but 24 points and edged us out only on better goal difference. Canberra has proved with 24 points it can give many teams a run for their money."

"That three teams can get 24 points and finish in three of the bottom four positions serves only to indicate just how close the 1982 Phillips Soccer League was."

"It was tight and tough."

Charlie Perkins says he accepted the invitation to be president of the Canberra City Olympians which now finance and control Canberra Arrows, in the interests of the club he did so much to keep alive.

"I am sad that the magnificent ethos of a multicultural national league soccer club in Canberra had ended inasmuch as the club now has one ethnic group dominating."

"But we still have a truly multicultural group of spectators, even if they also are dwindling in numbers."

"We already have begun planning for 1982. We have strong team-building plans."

We are trying to put together a package that will keep players content, like making sure they have meaningful jobs, proper accommodation — and fair recompense for playing in relation to the club's capacity to pay.

"What we want are good honest players, who will give 100% effort for Canberra Arrows."

"That will mean some new blood, some weeding out, but essentially I hope we'll keep by far the majority of this year's team in 1983."

"We have new signings in mind — like an experienced forward and stopper."

perenced forward and stopper.

"Let's not forget, however, that the economy is tight. We have to make savings. Like so many PSL clubs, our soccer account is hopelessly in the red and it's no secret that when Downer Olympic took over the Arrows they assumed 1982 debts of \$130,000."

"We have five months to fix the problems and work positively towards putting a winning team on the park in 1983."

"Even if we are defeated, I think people will come if they see genuine effort and gutsy fighting performances, not losses caused by ineptness or lack of commitment."

And Charlie Perkins' role in the plan? "Peacemaker, adviser and planner."

Watch the Arrows fly in 1983!

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APAC, SAIT Suspended

Two South Australian clubs have been suspended from competition for failure to meet debts to their federation.

Second Division club Westfield APAC and Metro Leagues SAIT were suspended before last weekend's round of games. Both will be fined \$100 for forfeiting the matches and their opponents were awarded 3-0 wins.

However, once the outstanding money is paid to the federation, the board of management will consider lifting the suspension.

Socceroo Peter Sharpe will be coached by one of the game's most famous personalities when the Hong Kong domestic season opens shortly.

Sharpe's club, Eastern, has obtained Bobby Moore, captain of England during its 1966 World Cup triumph, on a two-year contract.

Moore often had stated his desire to break into senior soccer management but until now has been restricted to guiding the fortunes of non-league clubs and organising his coaching school for youngsters.

The ex-West Ham hero

Sharpe has top boss

pointment will be a stepping-stone towards the big-time of English soccer.

Moore has taken with him to the Crown Colony Graham Paddon and Len Cantello, who were teammates with Norwich City and West Bromwich Albion respectively.

Most experts believe however that the lightning-fast Australian winger will be the ace in the Eastern pack once

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W.h.y.n.o.t.p.r.e.s.s.o.n.w.i.t.h.o.u.t.u.s.?

Soccer writers are regarded as a necessary evil. This, I feel, is far too benevolent a view. They seem to be an unnecessary evil.

At last week's annual ASPA dinner in Sydney — Australian Soccer Press Association, in case you cannot decipher the initials — journalists and the media barely were mentioned.

His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., K.St.J. (Key to initials in a later issue), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, a likeable fellow, was the keynote speaker.

Some people in the dining room surely hoped that, in the tradition of one of his predecessors, he might dismiss soccer's government: you must admit it is a tempting thought.

But no: he made a nice little speech and promised to pass on our best wishes to Her Majesty who is believed to be a keen follower of the PSL.

Then, towards the end, he managed to squeeze a single sentence about the press into his speech: a welcome relief all round.

Another Knight of the realm, ASF president Sir Arthur George (I don't know his letters, forgive my ignorance) made his customary brief, almost

apologetic reference to the press while PSL chairman Sam Papa-savas might have also mentioned it but I am not so sure as he was speaking without subtitles.

Some two years ago it was much the same. Then it was the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Malcolm Fraser, MP, etc. etc. etc., who managed to deliver a major speech without once mentioning the Press. This would amount to a funeral eulogy without at least a fleeting remark about the deceased.

So let's face it: The Press is a nuisance and the soccer Press is a bloody nuisance. Journalists, on the whole, are difficult fellows who ask impertinent questions and pursue subjects officials find uncomfortable or plainly distasteful.

This is especially true of Australia where soccer flourishes (?) in a tribal village atmosphere with all the natives familiar with one another: healthy, mutual contempt thrives on such familiarity.

Sporting organisations, like governments, can absorb an extraordinary amount of praise and flattery without batting an eyelid.

Occasionally, in a spirit of christian brotherhood (please substitute here Moslem, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish or Shinto according to your beliefs), a reporter works his way into a "positive mood" and produces what can only

be termed as a conciliatory prose.

He depicts organisations such as the ASF, PSL or clubs in such glowing terms that even the typewriter blushes and you, the reader, wonder whether the man is well informed, straight or at least sober.

He builds a faltering, mumbling official, coach or player into a paragon of all human virtues with lofty ideals and deep wisdom, all expressed in a language worthy of a Bernard Shaw.

Then he sits back, slightly embarrassed, and waits for some reaction. Not, perhaps, an outright — thank-you but at least a friendly hello, a cheerful pat on the



Andrew Dettre

back, a well-that-was-nice-of-you comment.

But nothing ever happens. His exaggerated flattery is accepted mutely as dues; this is how serfs in feudal societies had to pay homage, plus a share of their meagre earnings, to the landlord.

Yet should the same reporter in subsequent months dare make the gentlest criticism about

the action or plan of the same person — the phone rings with lament and abuse or, worse, next time he is greeted with a limp handshake and a "you-bastard-you-want-to-destroy-me" look.

Gradually, even the most idealistic, boy-scoutish reporter arms himself against such disappointments and develops a measure of cynicism which, he hopes,

will protect him against such wounds; it's like a permanent bandaid wrapped around his cerebellum.

Let's be honest about it for once: the press in Australia would exist quite comfortably without soccer. Much of our metropolitan press already does; days go by without a Sydney morning paper uttering a single word about the game unless it's some shattering news from Grimsby Town, perhaps Falkirk.

Even the ethnic press would get on well if soccer ceased to exist and it's only the soccer publications which would find it a trifle harder — but only a trifle, mind you — to fill their pages.

But could soccer exist without the Press? There would be no platform for officials to polish their ego, no outlet for coaches to explain the inexplicable. You wouldn't even find out where the PSL Top Four series will be staged. (Where will it be staged anyhow?)

If, one day, in a moment of sudden enlightenment, soccer officials realised that they do need a well-informed, fair, honest and competent press and would begin to treat them accordingly, both parties would benefit enormously.

Until then we can confidently expect to be ignored even at our own gala dinners, God save the Governor General.

Sir Arthur admits blame, chance for Africa tour

Australia no longer will play friendly matches.

So says Sir Arthur George, president of the Australian Soccer Federation. And Sir Arthur also admitted that he was partly responsible for Australia's World Cup failure last year. "I accept a measure of responsibility for the World Cup disaster, but we have to put the failures behind us now and put our best foot forward. If we are defeated in 1985, let it be defeat with honor," he said. Meanwhile, Australia will play only against full national

teams, not against touring club sides.

"No more friendlies!" Sir Arthur declared.

He said most of the English clubs against which the Socceroos had played here were on holiday jaunts and therefore not taking their soccer as seriously as they would at home.

"We came back from the World Cup in Spain with invitations from Kenya, Egypt,

Nigeria, Algeria and Rhodesia among others. It's against full international teams that we'll be playing in future, and you can expect links to be established with other developing nations."

Sir Arthur said he was pleased that two local players — David Lowe and Peter Katholos had won the major players' awards.

"The difference between the

team that failed in the World Cup last year and the one that was beaten in the World Youth Championship quarter-finals, was that half the youth team players were crying with anguish because they felt that they had let their teams down. That's the sort of player we want for Australia.

"Soccer is at the crossroads. Only the national team and the national youth team can unite us."

Will ASPA lose control of awards?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The national soccer awards, organised since 1977 by the Australian Soccer Press Association (ASPA), may have to be run on a smaller scale now that Philips Industries have withdrawn their support for soccer.

In addition to sponsoring the national league, Philips also has been financing the awards night. Rumour has it that the league wants to take the awards out of ASPA hands. If so, the league may lose a little more Press support.

Votes for all national awards except the Photographer of the Year, are cast by soccer writers throughout Australia who are members of ASPA's State branches.

It is the Victorian branch that started the awards. In fact, Victoria was the first State to have a soccer Press association.

The awards night was introduced by ASPA for the players, so it was pleasing that many more players were present last week than the previous year in Melbourne, when the dinner was attended mainly by club and league officials.

About 30 players were present at the dinner in Sydney.

Martin Royal of the ABC was efficient and self-assured as usual as master of ceremonies, but I feel the format of the night can be improved dramatically.

The excitement of vote-counting should be in the uncertainty as, vote by vote, the margins become slimmer, and the leaders alternate.

So it is done for the most successful such function in Australia — the Brownlow Medal of the VFL.

This format also is used by the State Federations for the Rothmans Medal awards.

Instead of counting votes, the PSL and ASPA organisers showed us on a large video screen the leaders at the halfway stage and then simply announced the winner.

What a waste! Just because so many teams in the league lack excitement value, there's no reason for ASPA to follow suit.

Finally, let me say it was fun as usual to be among all those champions of xenophobia from throughout a country whose most alluring feature is its plurality of cultures. It always reminds me of the fable about the Emperor's clothes.



Under-21 Player of the Year, David Lowe from Newcastle KB (left), At right is "Soccer Action" Editor Laurie Schwab who presented the award.

Lowe and behold, the boy from KB wins it

A loud cheer went up from the Newcastle table as David Lowe was named Australian Under 21 Player of the Year.

Lowe and his team mates had hoped hard for the award, but they knew that Jim Patikas of Sydney City was regarded as the favorite by many present at the Masonic Centre in Sydney.

But there is no doubt at all that Lowe was a worthy winner.

All at the gathering acknowledged it with their enthusiastic applause as Lowe was handed the "Soccer Action" trophy by our editor, Laurie Schwab.

Schwab announced that Lowe also would receive the Jimmy Mackay Golden Book

perpetual award. That trophy commemorates the goal Mackay scored to put Australia into the 1974 World Cup finals, and it comprises the famous boot itself, in a perspex case.

Lowe, 18, scored nine goals for Newcastle in his debut season after stepping up from the youth league.

Although small in build, he shields the ball like a hardened professional, he turns and accelerates very quickly and of course he scores goals. He will be in the Australian team for the World Youth Championship qualifying games in Port Moresby in December, and is sure to go on from there to the senior national squad.

Voting in the under 21 player award:
17. G. Phillips (Syd O)
16.5 R. Licata (Mar)
16.1 Gray (APIA)
D. Wright (Brisb LJ)
15.5 P. Carter (APIA)
15.5 S. Nikolaidis (SM)
14.5 C. Yankos (Heid)
14. S. Glocker (Brisb C)
1. Hunter (Mar)

Tredinnick (New)
13.5 S. Calderon (Mar)
13. R. Dunne (West Ad)
12. V. Belic (JUST)
11. D. Doorn (West Ad)
10. J. Little (Mak)
C. Manou (Ad)
J. Moutsopolous (Can)
C. Villani (Ad C)
R. Vilestra (Woll)

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Sydney Olympic and Australia's star midfielder, Peter Katholos. Just after being named Player of the Year.

EDDIE STILL THE BEST SAYS AROK

After being named Coach of the Year, Frank Arok of St George bowed in tribute to his rival Eddie Thomson of Sydney City Hawks.

"I am delighted, but in my book Eddie Thomson is the best coach," Arok said. "I told him I thought I was quite a good manager but he was the darling of the Press and he had won three championships, so I had no chance to win this award."

It was the third time, though, that Arok had been honored in this way. He twice was voted NSW's top coach back in State League days.

Arok returned to St George in late 1980, when the club was relegated. In the State League, he started a rebuilding process which was finalised early this year, after he had lifted Saints back into top company.

And, in their first season back, the Saints finished second. MC Martin Royal put it so well, describing Arok as the man under whom St George had "risen Phoenix-like from the ashes of despair."

Pictures by
LES SHORROCK

'KATH' KILLS 'EM, WHERE TO NOW?

Peter Katholos, the 1982 Australian Player of the Year, still wants to break into European soccer, but he will wait until 1984 before trying again.

Katholos had trials with Arsenal in England and Olympiakos in Greece early this year.

"My biggest aim is to help Australia to qualify for the next World Cup," Katholos said after receiving his trophy from the Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephens.

"The best place to prove your ability is in the World Cup, let's face it."

Katholos said he would not go to Europe next season, but would try to arrange trials perhaps in early 1984.

His contract with Sydney Olympic has expired and he is leaving his options open. He agreed that because of his low \$10,000 transfer fee, he was in a position to put a signing-on fee of, say, \$20,000 straight in his pocket.

"That's why I had the figure stipulated in my contract when I first signed," he said.

He said he had had no official approaches from South Melbourne Hellas, but that Docherty had asked him about the possibility of joining Hellas before Docherty signed a two-year contract with Olympic last week.

The contract was signed just before the national awards at Sydney's Masonic Centre.

Katholos said that while his final decision depended on the money Olympic offered him, the return of Docherty also was a consideration. "I played under him at Olympic last year and I have a lot of time for the guy," Katholos said.

Katholos, who a few days earlier had won "Soccer Action's" Player of the Year award, finished with 32 points, four more than John Bradley (APIA) and Dez Marton (St. George) who were equal second.

The brilliant 21-year-old midfielder started his senior career with Canterbury Marrickville in the PSL soccer with St. George before switching to Olympic early last season.

He is in the national squad for the Merlion Trophy in Singapore next month.



Cermak makes it two in row

Anton Cermak of the "Sydney Morning Herald" won the award for Photographer of the Year for the second time.

The prize, donated by Umbro, was for a photo featuring South Melbourne Hellas striker Charlie Egan.

A series of 10 photos won a special com-

mendation for Graham Fothergill of the "Illawarra Mercury".

Other finalists were Les Shorrock ("Soccer Action"), Greg Trotman and Paul Wright.

Shorrock's picture, of the Qatar v. West Germany game in the 1981 World Youth Championships, also was given a special praise but Mr Ian McAndrew of Umbro explained that to qualify for the main prize, entries must be of PSL matches and they must show the PSL in a good light.

Voting details	
32. P. Katholos (SO)	14. V. Bozanic (M), T. Byrne (Can), M. Soper (APIA).
28. J. Bradley (APIA), D. Marton (St. G)	
25. J. Watson (SC)	13. M. Crook (WA), D. Lowe (N), N. McGachey (WA), W. Murray (SC), J. Nyskohus (AC), P. Tredinnick (W).
23. N. Banfield (AC), G. Honeyman (WA)	
22. J. Hermiston (BC)	
20. G. Heya (WA), Z. Ilioski (JUST)	12.5 M. Barton (St. G), L. Adam (W), C. Bennett (BL), A. Davidson (SM), C. Dunleavy (W).
18. P. O'Connor (W)	
17. A. Bertogna (W), J. Campbell (H), D. Ratcliffe (St. G)	11. S. Blair (SM), D. Brown (Mak), G. Campbell (SM), J. Fleming (W), D. Mitchell (SC), A. Whittle (Mak).
16. J. Kondarios (JUST)	
15.5 C. Egan (SM), F. Liddell (BC), R. Russell (AC)	10. G. Byrne (Can), G. Christopolous (Can), S. Robertson (N), C. Villani (AC).
15. J. Hamilton (N), J. Kosmina (SC), J. Petikas (SC), P. Raskopolous (SO), J. Redfern (SO)	



ASF president Sir Arthur George (centre) with four of the winners. From the left: Frank Arok (Coach of the Year), David Lowe (Under-21 Player of the Year), Tony Boskovic (Referee of the Year) and Katholos.



Sydney City's soccer leader Andrew Lederer (right) accepts the club's fourth championship shield from a Philips executive.

Boskovic top ref

Tony Boskovic, Australia's longest-serving top-class referee, was named Referee of the Year at the national awards night.

But the award was much in recognition of his inclusion among the World Cup referees in Spain as for his work in league soccer.

He missed many league rounds because of his absence, and so his average remained high as he had less 'off-days' than his colleagues.

Boskovic's average for the season was 8.25. Journalists awarded a mark out of 10 for each match — and each referee's total was divided by his number of matches to determine an average.

The leading group comprised:
8.25 A. BOSKOVIC (NSW)
8.15 R. LORENC (NSW)
7.93 T. DAVIES (NSW)
7.82 D. CAMPBELL (SA)
7.80 G. POWER (NSW)
7.75 A. KIBLER (QLD)
7.70 D. RENNIE (NSW)
7.55 D. ROSSIS (SA)
7.50 D. VOUTSINAS (Vic)
7.33 D. YELLAND (Vic)



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SCORERS AND STARS OF '82



Zdravko Lujic (J.U.S.T.)

Sydney City Hakoah, having won its third successive PSL championship, also polled most votes in "Soccer Action's" Player of the Year award.

Sydney City's total was 378. Second place went to St. George with 359.

Votes totals for every club:
 Sydney City Hakoah: 378
 St. George Budapest: 359
 Wollongong: 343
 Brisbane City: 327
 Sth Melb Hellas: 326
 Sydney Olympic: 322
 Newcastle KB: 322
 West Adel. Hellas: 310
 Canberra City: 306
 Footscray JUST: 304
 Preston Makedonia: 303
 Marconi-Datsun: 294
 Adel. City Juventus: 293
 H'Berg-Alexander: 290
 Brisbane Lions: 282
 Apia-L'Hardt: 281
 Top vote-getters:
 99 Katholos (SO).
 76 Marton (St G), Bertogna (W).

66 Bradley (APIA).
 63 Ilioski (JUST).
 61 Watson (SC).
 58 Stone (St.G).
 56 O'Connor (W), Dunn (WA).

55 J. Campbell (H'berg).
 54 McGachey (WA).
 52 Egan (SM).
 50 Yankos H'berg, Kosmina (SC).

Top scorers of 1982:
 23 Kosmina (SC)
 20 Egan (SM)
 18 Marton (St.G)
 16 Koussas (SO), O'Connor (W).

14 Honeyman (WA), Soper (APIA).
 12 Cole, J. Campbell (H'berg), Giampaolo (APIA), Jankovics (Marc).
 11 Brown (Mak).
 10 Ward (Mak), Redfern (SO), J. Nyskohus (AC), Cotton (W).

Votes in "Soccer Action's" player of the year award, and goalscorers for every club:



Sydney Olympic striker Jim Redfern (left) is fouled by Footscray J.U.S.T. goalkeeper Milutin Ciric. In the background is Jim O'Reilly.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS

Votes:
 55 Banfield.
 44 Russell.
 36 Northcote
 30 B. Nyskohus
 25 Ferguson
 19 Manou
 14 J. Nyskohus
 13 Villani
 12 Dods, Flounders
 9 McNally
 8 Mitchell (also polled 22 votes with Sydney City).
 6 Marocchi
 4 Melta
 3 Rankin
 2 Carter
 1 Marangoni
 Goalscorers:
 10 J. Nyskohus
 5 Melta, Villani
 3 Northcote, Mitchell (also scored 6 goals for Sydney City)
 2 Carter, Russell, Manou
 1 Marocchi, B. Nyskohus, Flounders
 Own goals: Duarte (St. Geo)

APIA-LEICHHARDT

Votes:
 66 Bradley
 38 Soper
 23 Carter
 18 Jones
 17 Giampaolo
 16 Pullen, Butler
 13 Woodhouse
 10 Gray, Wilson, Parkes
 9 McAusland
 8 McBreen, Kafka
 7 DeCeglie
 6 Skellern
 3 Burrows
 2 Morsello
 1 Kilkelly
 Scorers:
 14 Soper
 12 Giampaolo
 7 Bradley
 5 Jones
 2 Morsello, McBreen
 1 Pullen, Carter, Kafka, Burrows, Gray
 Own goals: Bohan (Bris.C), Skeen (St. Geo)

BRISBANE CITY

Votes:
 76 Hermiston
 35 Liddell, Pimblett
 32 Bohan
 27 Conner, Tokesi
 16 Perry
 15 McVeigh, Dunne
 12 Hamilton
 11 Kelso
 5 Pezzano
 5 Palinkas
 4 Wishart
 3 Cairney
 2 Wilkinson, Glockner
 1 Carey
 Scorers:
 5 Bohan
 4 Conner, Palinkas
 3 Kelso, Carey, Glockner, Cairney
 2 Pimblett, Hamilton
 1 Wilkinson, Toksei, Hermiston



Lee Adam of Wollongong takes on South Melbourne Hellas defender Socrates Mikolaidis.

BRISBANE LIONS

Votes:
 41 Bennett
 26 Williamson, Hogg
 25 Niven, Millman
 22 Lowndes
 17 Burns
 16 Atmore
 14 Wright
 13 Sunderland
 10 Ogden
 9 McLean
 3 Jackson, Scanlan
 2 Daunt
 Scorers:
 9 Williamson
 8 Millman
 4 Hogg, Low, Sunderland
 3 Daunt
 2 Wright
 1 McLean, Niven, Ferris, Atmore, Ogden

CANBERRA CITY

48 G. Byrne
 45 T. Byrne
 43 Christopoulos
 30 Hoszowski
 26 Purdie
 19 Ambrosino
 8 Brennan, Ontong
 17 Milovanovic
 12 Gibson
 11 Murray
 9 Bryant
 5 Moutsopoulos
 4 Maclaren
 1 Stone
 Scorers:
 9 Purdie
 16 Maclaren, T. Byrne
 4 Brennan, Gibson
 3 Christopoulos
 1 G. Byrne, Bryant, Stone, Valeri
 Own goal: Cant (Syd.C)

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

Votes:
 63 Ilioski
 42 Kondarios
 40 O'Reilly
 27 Ciric
 19 Lujic
 17 Hazabent, Belic
 15 Ristovski
 14 Kojic
 12 Milne
 11 Boland
 8 Jovanovic, Kyriakoulas
 5 Simic
 3 Cozzella
 2 Stojcevski
 1 Curovic
 Goals:
 8 Simic
 6 Ristovski
 5 Kojic
 4 Ilioski, Kondarios
 2 Cozzella, Lujic, Belic
 1 Hazabent

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER

Votes:
 55 Campbell
 50 Yankos
 43 McMillan
 27 Yzendorn
 26 Cole
 24 Selemidis
 23 Macleod
 12 Tansey
 8 Valentine, Olver, Rooney
 6 Paton
 Goals:
 12 Cole, Campbell
 8 Paton
 2 Selemidis, Macleod, Yzendorn

PERESTON-MAKEDONIA

Votes:
 37 Potter
 320 Jones (also polled one vote with SM-Hellas)
 27 Brown
 24 Boyle
 23 McMillan
 21 Ward
 20 Petrovski, Flavell
 19 Wilson
 15 Todorovski
 12 Whittle, Lucchesi, Fox
 9 Little
 6 Cullen, Opasinas
 5 Ollerton, Beech
 Goals:
 11 Brown
 10 Ward
 6 Ollerton, McMillan
 5 Lucchesi
 2 Whittle
 1 Cullen, Boyle, Petrovski
 Own goals: Calderon (Marc), Jackson (Bris.L)

ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST

Votes:
 76 Marton
 58 Stone
 38 Ratcliffe
 32 Skeen
 29 Slater, Barton
 20 Fraser
 17 Wilkinson
 16 J. O'Shea
 13 R. O'Shea
 10 Koritar
 8 M. O'Shea
 4 Campbell, Lerino
 3 Davies
 2 Griffiths
 Goals:
 18 Marton
 8 Slater, Barton
 4 Wilkinson
 2 Stone, Macdougall
 1 Lerinc, J. O'Shea, Duarte, R. O'Shea, Ratcliffe

SOUTH MELBOURNE-HELLAS

Votes:
 52 Egan
 44 Xanthopoulos
 38 Davidson
 36 Blair
 32 Campbell
 27 Evans
 21 Shirra
 16 Stevenson
 13 Buljevic
 12 Nicolaides
 9 Bennett
 6 Rogers, Tsigaras
 5 Wooddin
 4 Laumets, Holford
 1 Jones (also polled 30 votes with Makedonia)

GOALS:
 20 Egan
 8 Buljevic
 5 Campbell
 3 Davidson, Evans
 1 Wooddin, Stevenson, Blair, Holford, Nicolaides, Rogers
 own goal: Kilkelly (APIA)

SYDNEY CITY-HAKOAH

Votes:
 61 Watson
 50 Kosmina
 39 Murray
 36 Patikas
 35 Robertson
 26 O'Connor
 22 Mullen, Mitchell (also polled 8 votes with Adelaide City)
 21 Cant
 16 Spanos
 14 Clarke
 12 Bruce, Barnes
 6 Borges
 4 Boden
 2 Lee
 Goals:
 23 Kosmina
 9 Patikas
 6 Murray, Mitchell (also



Roberto Vieri (Marconi).

scored 3 goals with Adelaide City)
 5 Borges
 4 Boden, Spanos
 3 Barnes
 2 Watson
 1 Bruce, Cant, Fletcher, Lee
 own goal: Bennett (Brisb. Lions)

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Votes:
 99 Katholos
 45 Raskopoulos
 40 Redfern
 37 Jennings
 19 Phillips
 16 Ziras
 14 K. Wilson, Gavin
 10 Koussas
 9 Rogers
 5 P. Wilson
 4 Meier
 3 Rowden, Kelly
 2 Daikos
 1 Akoutas, Scott
 Goals:
 16 Koussas
 10 Redfern
 9 Katholos
 6 K. Wilson
 3 Gavin, Jennings
 2 Rowden
 1 Raskopoulos, Phillips
 own goal: Sneddon (Newc)

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS

Votes:
 56 Dunn
 54 McGachey
 42 Honeyman
 40 Heys
 35 Crook
 22 Boath
 19 Sumner
 11 Brennan
 10 Maricic, McGregor
 7 Doorne
 3 Totsikas
 1 Boetel
 Goals:
 14 Honeyman
 6 Heys
 5 Dunn
 4 Manecas, Brown
 3 Atsals
 2 Santrac, Sumner, Boath
 1 Wright, Brennan

WOLLONGONG

Votes:
 76 Bertogna
 56 O'Connor
 40 Adam
 29 Cotton
 28 Dunleavy
 20 Preston
 19 Vardareff
 18 P. Tredinnick
 17 Ainsworth
 14 Fleming
 8 Fontana
 6 Vliestra
 5 Waldron
 4 Willis
 3 Gaffney
 Goals:
 16 O'Connor
 10 Cotton
 4 Adam
 3 Fontana
 2 Dunleavy, P. Tredinnick
 1 Campbell, Bertogna, Gaffney, Willis, Waldron, Fleming



Steve Blair of South Melbourne Hellas lunges at the ball ahead of Makedonia striker Gary Ward.



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Last year's team of the year:

Martyn
CROOK

(West Adel Hellas)

Arthur
McMILLAN
(Heidelberg)

Jim
HERMISTON
(Brisb. Lions)

Peter
WILSON
(APIA-L'hardt)

Bugsy
NYSKOHUS
(Adel. C. Juve)

Joe
SEMKALSKI
(Newc. KB)

Ian
SOUNESS
Syd C. Hakosh

Peter
KATHOLOS
(Syd Olympic)

Joe
WATSON
(Syd C. Hakosh)

Alan
EVANS
(SM-Hellas)

David
MITCHELL
(Adel. C. Juve)

1981 team of the year: Crook (W. Ad.) — V. Bannan (SM-Hellas), Hermiston (Br. C.), McMillan (Can.), Tansey (H.berg) — D. Cole (Can.), Campbell (H.berg), Barnes (SC) — Watson (SC), Boden (Br. C.), G. Campbell (SM-Hellas).
1979 team of the year: Crook (W. Ad.) — Perry (Br. C.), Prskalo (Maro), G. Potter (Br. C.), Curran (Newc.) — J. Campbell (H.berg), Rooney (H.berg), Jankovics (Maro) — Boden (Newc.), Balpene (H.berg), Lujic (H.berg).
1978 team of the year: Crook (W. Ad.) — B. Nyskohus (Ad. C.), Perry (Br. C.), Kambas (W. Ad.), Degey (Maro) — Boyle (W. Ad.), McGachey (W. Ad.), Vier (Maro) — Sharrin (Adel. C. Juve), Boden (Newc.), Lujic (H.berg).
1977 team of the year: Crook (W. Ad.) — Pye (SM-Hellas), Hermiston (Br. C.), Wilson (W. Ad.), Ryan (SC), Balpene (H.berg).
1976 team of the year: Crook (W. Ad.) — Richards (Maro), Barnes (SC), Rooney (Maro) — Watson (SC), South (SC), Balpene (H.berg).

TEAM OF THE YEAR

This is our 1982 Team of the Year, based on votes gained in the "Soccer Action" — Kosmos Player of the Year award. Runners-up in each position, also are shown:



37. Steve POTTER

(Preston Wakelonia)

35. Martyn Crook (W. Adel. Hellas)
30. Steve Hozowski (Canberra City)



44. Bobby RUSSELL

(Adel. City Juventus)

43. Arthur McMillan (H'berg)

32. David Skeen (St. Geo)



76. Arno BERTOOGNA

(Wollongong)

56. Robbie Dunn (West Adel)

42. Jim Kondarinos (Foota JUST)



76. Jim HERMISTON

(Brisbane Lions)

54. Neil McGachey (West Adel)

45. Terry Byrne (Canberra)



50 Charlie YANKOS

(Heidelberg-Alexander)

43. Howard Tredinnick (Newc)

30. Bugy Nyakohus (Adel. C)



66. John
BRADLEY
(APIA-Leichhardt)
58. Peter Stone (St. Geo)
43. George Christopoulos (Can)



99. Peter
KATHOLOS
(Sydney Olympic)
55. Jim Campbell (H'berg)
48. Gary Byrne (Can)



63. Zoran
ILIOSKI
(Footscray JUST)
45. Peter Raskopoulos (Syd Ol)
47. Tony Henderson (Marconi)



61. Joe
WATSON
(Sydney City Hawks)
40. Graeme Heys (West Adel)
38. Marshall Soper (APIA)



76. Dez
MARTON
(St. George Budapest)
52. Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas)
50. John Kosmina (Syd. C)



56. Phil
O'CONNOR
(Wollongong)
42. Graham Honeyman (West Adel)
39. Willie Murray (Syd. C)



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Victorian State
League with
CRAIG MACKENZIE

Gardiner, Bennett in the reserves!

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 1 (Stewart) AJAX 4 (Paul Lewis 2, Peter Lewis, Macleod)

WILHELMINA: Barclay 7 - Pasman 7, Layton 7, O' Riley 7, Vanders 7 - Heyland 6 (Stewart 7th), Truett 7, Burton 6 (Reid 7th), Tattersall 6, Carroll 7, Stewart 7.

AJAX: Dwyer 7 - Peter Lewis 6, Canell 6, Vassallo 6 (Bennett 7th), Hopton 7 - Green 6, Bayle 7, Smallman 7 - Dickinson 7, Paul Lewis 7, Macleod 7 (Williams 7th).

Spectators who turned up early to Jubilee Park on Saturday must have rubbed their eyes in disbelief as they watched John Gardiner, Jim Williams and Alan Bennett playing in Ajax's reserves. Even with this illustrious trio in the "stiffs" Wilhelmina's young second string side won 2-1.

But the main game looked like how far Ajax early but after going a goal behind a superb interpassing move by Wilhelmina enabled it to deservingly draw level.

Ajax opened its account in the 6th minute when Gus Macleod sent Peter Dickson clear. The former Queen of the South star squared across goal to the incoming Paul Lewis and he hardly could miss from six metres out.

But little Lewis did miss, about a minute

later, from a replica of the move leading to his opening goal. This time though Don Pasman got a foot to Lewis' shot and deflected the ball wide for a corner.

About five Wilhelmina players combined in the 15th minute in a delightful movement which was capped by Ken Stewart's run in behind Peter Lewis and a fierce drive which sent the ball rocketing into the roof of the net from about 10 metres out.

Spurred on by the equaliser Wilhelmina came at Ajax but the champion elect hit the front again in the 27th minute when Peter Lewis headed in from a David Smallman corner.

A minute before half time Ken Barclay, Wilhelmina's tall custodian, palmed out a high ball which was pounced upon by Paul Lewis who smashed it past the stranded Barclay and two Wilhelmina defenders on the goal line.

Gus Macleod got on to the end of another Smallman corner in the 71st minute to complete the scoreline. Macleod in his customary back post position, out-jumped Paul O'Reilly to head over Barclay and into goal.

	H-Hak v Polonia	Croatia v S' shine	North C v R' wood	Ajax v Falcons	Doves v Albion	Croydon v Frank C	G Cross v Juve
TIM WHITE	Polonia	Croatia	North C	Ajax	Doves	Croydon	Draw
Laurie Schwab	Polonia	Croatia	North C	Ajax	Albion	Frank C	Juve
Craig Mackenzie	Polonia	Croatia	R' wood	Ajax	Doves	Draw	Draw
Bill Vojtek	Polonia	Croatia	Draw	Ajax	Draw	Frank C	Juve
Les Shorrock	Polonia	Croatia	North C	Ajax	Albion	Draw	Juve

Derek Lea: Charlie Egan No. 2

A little goalscoring machine called Derek Lea, arrived from Scotland on Monday and could follow in the footsteps of South Melbourne Hellas star Charlie Egan.

Lea's an Egan style striker — one of these wee guys who always bobs up in the right place at the right time. He played with Renfrew juniors as did Sunshine's Nelson brothers, Rob and Dave, Norrie Pate and Doveton's Ian Stirton.

Lea has migrated to Australia and he's not attached to a club yet. Already three State League clubs have shown interest in signing him but they may run into stiff competition from a Melbourne based PSL club.

Doveton probably will get relegated if it doesn't beat Albion Rovers at Waratah Reserve on Sunday. I think Doveton will win.

Northcote will go into Sunday's John Cain Reserve clash with Ringwood Wilhelmina as favourites if our panel of tipsters are any guide. Anyway I'm the only one of the panel to go for Wilhelmina and I expect Joe Carroll, Joe Tront and little Kenny Stewart to prove me right. Sorry Northcote. I think you are doomed.

Frankston City expects to beat Croydon at Croydon Park on Sunday.

"I'm going into the game very confident of success. I'm sure the lads are capable of winning this one," said Frankston coach Tommy Robertson last Sunday night.

Croydon probably will have Peter Loughnane back so I don't quite share Tommy's optimism. I think this looks as a good draw.

Hellas-Hakoah was hopeless

SUNDAY
Hellas-Hakoah v Polonia at Middle Park, 3 pm.
Melbourne Croatia v Sunshine at Olympic Park No. 2, 3 pm.

Northcote v Ringwood Wilhelmina at John Cain Reserve, 3 pm.

Ajax v Morwell Falcons at Green Gully Reserve, 3 pm.

Doveton v Albion Rovers at Waratah Reserve, 3 pm.

Croydon v Frankston City at Croydon Park, 3 pm.

George Cross v Juventus at Chaplin Reserve, 3 pm.

on Saturday night against Juventus. And the black and whites weren't anything to write home about either. Nonetheless my money's on Polonia at Middle Park this Sunday.

Croatia should beat Sunshine on Sunday. The game originally was scheduled for Olympic Park's main ground but Croatia graciously consented to let the Melbourne based Commonwealth Games athletes use the main arena on Sunday afternoon. So the game now is at the No. 2 ground.

John Gardiner and Jim Williams should be at peak fitness for Sunday's Green Gully Reserve clash with Morwell Falcons. The most intriguing battle of the afternoon probably will be between Dave Neil and Ajax's leading State League scorer Paul Lewis.

George Cross is capable of anything against Juventus at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday — a three or four goal drubbing or a handsome win. That's the way Cross has been playing for most of this year — unpredictably. I suppose the easy way out is to go for a draw.

still has three games to play this season barring injury but would need to poll three votes in all three games without Milla polling once to draw level with the Polish sweeper.

This week's votes:

Morwell Falcons v Doveton: T. van Baar (MF), Melvor (D).

Juventus v Hellas-Hakoah: Hird (J), Gray (H-B).

Ringwood Wilhelmina v



Paul Lewis raises his fist in triumph while scoring for Ajax against Wilhelmina goalkeeper Ken Barclay. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Polonia looks to Lodz

POLONIA 2 (P. Czupnik, Lalic) CROATIA 2 (Biskic, Latif)

POLONIA: Dziubakowski 7 — Klein (Jaworski 16th 6), A. Czupnik 7, Milla 7, Smolark 7 — Ljarski 6, P. Czupnik 6, Przybylin 7 — Lalic 6, Krysinski 6, Marshall 6.

CROATIA: Blasny 6 — Curcio 7, Dams 6, Parton 7, Blavac 6, Faulkner 7, Antolovic 7, Biskic 6, Gojevic 6 — Latif 6, Murphy 6.

Polonia is after three new players for the 1983 season — a forward, midfielder and a defender — and hopes to get two of them from Polish First Division club LKS Lodz.

And the business consortium interested in running Polonia next year will meet with the present committee within a fortnight.

The Polish sponsored club fell a goal behind to Croatia in the 5th minute. Little Josip Biskic smacked a low shot from an acute angle on the right, sending the ball inside the near post.

Polonia hit back in the 12th minute when Janusz Przybyla passed to Alex Marshall

whose thundering drive from 18 metres caught Peter Blasny unawares.

About 10 minutes later hesitation between Andy Czupnik and Stefan Milla allowed Ossie Latif to break through onto a long ball and thump a low shot past helpless Leszek Dziubakowski.

Marian Jaworski had come on as a replacement for Stan Klein and Croatia paid dearly for its inability to effectively clear Jaworski's cross from the right later in the half. Blasny elected to stay on his line and Brendan Lalic nipped in to head in the equaliser.

Two minutes before half time Sean Parton brought down Przybyla inside the area and the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Przybyla took the kick but missed.

Croatia had chances to wrap it up in the second half. The best fell to Biskic in the 79th minute. Steve Gojevic got clear down the left, crossed and Biskic miskicked from right in front.

In the dying minutes Croatia was caught square at the back. Lalic was clear and elected to shoot rather than setting up Przybyla or Tad Krysinski and Blasny smothered well.

Loughnane and Creany back

ALBION ROVERS 3 (Coyle, Lloyd, S. McMillan) CROYDON 1 (Bakker)

ALBION ROVERS: Leacock 7 — Cutler 7, Munro 7 (Glasior 7th), A. McMillan 6, Neale 6 — Murphy 7, D'Sylva 7, Smart 6, Coyle 7 — Lloyd 7 (inj. Ferrie 6), S. McMillan 6.

CROYDON: Edwards 6 — Brown 6, McCombe 4, Dobson 4, Nelson 6 — Rainey 4, Rooney 4, Wade 6 — Bakker 6, Trachuk 4 — Loughnane 4, L. L. L. (Nolan 4), S. L. L. (Nolan 4).

"That's the worst performance I've seen from a Croydon team for six years. We were totally confused and disorganised at the back," said Croydon coach Bill McArthur.

Lloyd who had just been there. I have to be self-critical first. Then I'll look at the players."

And Albion made Croydon pay dearly for its defensive shambles. In the 8th minute Steve McMillan forced a corner. Kenny Smart sent the ball across and Keiron Coyle made no mistake with a free header from six metres.

Coyle couldn't convert from two easier headers later in the half but Albion made it 2-0 in the 22nd minute. Coyle slipped the ball through for Kevin Lloyd who got past Steve McCombe then shot low and hard from 12 metres.

A minute later it was threatening to be a rout. Another Smart corner from the left side of the box. The ball fell to Steve McMillan who had no trouble converting from four metres.

Guy Bakker pulled a goal back for Croydon in the 80th minute but by then the visitors to Selwyn Park were a well beaten bunch.

Incantalupo down, Wilson sent off

JUVENTUS 2 (G. Bannan, French) HELLAS-HAKOAH 0.

JUVENTUS: Fantoma 7 — V. Bannan 6, Donaldson 7, P. Bannan 7, Hird 9 — Cavalieri 6, G. Bannan 7, Swincoe 6, Incantalupo 6 — French 6, Nelson 6.

HELLAS-HAKOAH: Perree 6 — Wilson 6 (sent off 61st), Kalishvili 7, Hanneke 7, Rooney 7 — Cummings 6, Rozinowski 7, Owen 7 (inj. Madden 30th 6), Gray 6 — Pet-sakos 6, Abram 6 (Bizonis 62nd).

Controversy erupted after this terrible spectacle when Hellas-Hakoah defender Jimmy Wilson claimed Juve's Fabio Incantalupo tried to head-butt the middle knuckle of Wilson's right clenched fist in the 61st minute. The incident led to Wilson being ordered off.

"Yes, that's right," said Wilson's team-mate Sean Rooney. "I saw it clearly. In-

cantalupo tried to head-butt Jimmy right there," Rooney added, pointing to Wilson's puffed and swollen right hand.

Incantalupo was inactive for about four minutes as he received treatment. I couldn't help reflecting on comments emanating from the Hellas-Hakoah camp a few weeks ago about so called "barbaric" tactics employed by some players of an unnamed State

League club.

Anyway, "Fabulous Fabio" had the last laugh. Three minutes after he recovered Harry Hird sent him scooting down the left. Incantalupo smacked across a superb far post ball which Graham French met first-time about seven metres out and his low volley into the far corner made it 2-0.

Juve had opened its account in the 31st minute. Ged Bannan let fly with a low dipping shot from 20 metres. Young Mark Perree was down too early. The ball bounced just in front of him, hit him, then spun over his fallen body. Perree swivelled around and made a last ditch effort to save but by the time he palmed the ball away it was already across the line.

Hellas-Hakoah won't make the top four now and on this performance deserves its fate. Former Melbourne Hungaria great Joe Szabo is caretaker-coach of Hellas-Hakoah following last week's sacking of Jim Adam.

Mila closer, Paul Lewis top scorer

Another three-vote performance from Polonia and Victorian state team player Stefan Milla gives him a nine point cushion at the top of our voting for Ametco Travel's State League Player of the Year award.

His closest challenger, Paul Drinczyk of Frankston City,

still has three games to play this season barring injury but would need to poll three votes in all three games without Milla polling once to draw level with the Polish sweeper.

This week's votes:

Morwell Falcons v Doveton: T. van Baar (MF), Melvor (D).

Juventus v Hellas-Hakoah: Hird (J), Gray (H-B).

Ringwood Wilhelmina v

Ajax: K. Stewart (RW), Peter Lewis (A).

Albion Rovers v Croydon: A. McMillan (AR), Hobson (C).

Sunshine v Northcote: Baln (S), Nixon (N).

Frankston City v George Cross: R. Stewart (FC), McCann (GC).

Polonia v Croatia: Milla (P), Adams (C).

The winner will receive a trip to the 1983 England FA

Cup final or the country of his choice in Europe, flying Thai International.

Three votes are awarded to the best player of each club in every State League game.

These votes are awarded on the basis of "Soccer Action" ratings and the judgement of the opposition coach. This voting format was arrived at by the State League management committee.

Ametco Travel also sponsors our State League Top Scorer award. The leading sharpshooter for the 1982 league season wins a trip to Singapore, flying Thai International.

Leading scorers:

21 — Paul Lewis (Ajax)

18 — Dave Rigby (George Cross)

14 — Gus Macleod (Ajax), Dave Brogan (Croatia).

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1982 Rothmans Medallist Terry Hayes (centre), with the previous winners. From left: Wally Bojczuk (1979), Bobby Tufts ('78), Hayes, Garrie Dooley ('80), Adrian Santrac ('81). Pictures by FRANK HOBBS.

Henderson runner-up

The full voting in the SA

Rothmans Medal is:

29 — Hayes (Birkalla),

23 — Henderson (Eliza-

beth).

22 — Blair (Azzurri)

18 — Kierny (Polonia)

17 — Herd (Croatia)

14 — Tomlinson (Para

Hills)

13 — J. Smith (Port Adel-

side)

12 — Toland (Azzurri),

Goode (Port)

11 — Hood (Beograd),

Lesan (Croatia), H. Kolecki

(Polonia)

10 — Welsh (Beograd),

Barendregt (Campbell-

town), Webb (Noarlunga),

9 — Foy (Noarlunga),

Mullen (Para).

8 — Todd (Port), Mitchell

(Para), Amos (Para), Gale

(Eliz), Bojczuk (Azzurri).

7 — Lees (Beograd),

Dooley (Eliz), Haig (Camp),

Edwards (Camp)

6 — Green (Birkalla),

Humphreys (Para), Camp-

bell (Eliz), Strain (Eliz),

Pope (Croatia)

5 — Matiscak (Camp),

Richardson (Camp), Doyle

(Eliz), Kaye (Eliz)

4 — Arezina (Beograd),

Miller (Azzurri), Illicic

(Croatia), Cole (Azzurri),

Stanczak (Polonia), G. Smith

(Port), White (Birkalla)



Guess who? It's Rothmans Medallist Terry Hayes at 18 months.

3 — Reed (Birkalla), Wickstein (Birkalla), Konstandopoulos (Port), Panagis (Port), Booth (Port), Tsoleridis (Port), Prismoitaitis (Polonia), Blagojovic (Polonia), Kitchin (Noarlunga), S. Taylor (Noarlunga), Bagbie (Eliz), Donnelly (Azzurri), Ammirato (Camp), Mahoney (Camp)

2 — Opacic (Beograd), B. Smith (Azzurri), Kent (Azzurri), Dobbin (Eliz), Sullivan (Noarlunga), Jessepp (Noarlunga), Leembruggen

(Para), Kunowicz (Polonia), S. Metanowski (Polonia), Typek (Polonia), M. Joy (Birkalla), Marveggio (Birkalla)

1 — Kalinovic (Beograd), Krizman (Beograd), Adamo (Camp), F. Parks (Camp), Sproul (Croatia), Toth

(Croatia), Marwe (Croatia), R. Knowles (Eliz), Owers (Noarlunga), Wilde (Noarlunga), Gallina (Para), Kuc-

zmarski (Polonia), Durrant (Polonia), Koza (Polonia), Camilleri (Port), Coallvan (Noarlunga), J. Konstandopoulos (Port), Maxwell (Birkalla)

Terry Hayes' decision to quit Croatia and return to newly promoted West Torrens Birkalla at the start of the 1982 season was seen as a calculated risk.

After several seasons with Croatia in the State League, Hayes, the cynics thought, would accompany Birkalla back into Second Division.

But Hayes not only helped Birkalla survive its first season in State League in 15 years but also won the Rothmans Medal, as the best and fairest player in South Australia.

Ironically, his namesake, Graham Heys won the Australian Soccer Press Association award as the best and fairest PSL player in Adelaide.

Hayes, 25, won the \$5000 solid gold award by a record six points from Elizabeth City player-coach Bobby Henderson, who polled 29 votes.

Hayes polled 23 votes during the 18-game season.

Hayes was presented the medal by the State Minister of Community Welfare, Mr. Burgett, at a gala banquet at the Joe Oberdan Convention Centre.

The hard luck story must go to Henderson who also finished runner-up to Adrian Santrac of Beograd.

Azzurri midfielder Stewart Blair, formerly with Melbourne Hakoah, was third with 22 points.

Birkalla bought Hayes from Croatia for \$4500 which is a hefty sum for the State League.

But Hayes, who made his name with Croatia as a striker, repaid that fee with a series of quite outstanding displays particularly in the middle of the season when Birkalla was in danger of relegation.

Hayes switched to his normal striker's position late

Azzurri tops

League champion Azzurri led the club voting with 71 points.

Full club voting with number of players who polled in brackets:

Azzurri 71 (9), Elizabeth 62 (10), Beograd 58 (10), Para Hills 58 (10), Polonia 54 (12), Port Adelaide 52 (11), West Torrens Birkalla 50 (8), Noarlunga 48 (13), Croatia 45 (9), Campbelltown 42 (9)

All the winners

Previous winners of the best and fairest medal in SA are:

WEST END MEDAL
1965 Billy Graham (Croatia)
1966 Peter McKenzie (Victoria)
1967 Eugene Nowak (Polonia)

1968 Rab Jones (Beograd)
1969 Eric Norman (Juventus)
1970 Terry Wetton (Azzurri)
1971 Bugsy Nyskohus (Lion)
1972 Uros Zivkovic (Beograd)

1973 Tom Caton (Cumberland)
JOHN MARTIN MEDAL
1974 Geoff Booth (Campbelltown)

1975 Alan Sproates (Lion)
1976 John Perin (Juventus), John Kamleimer (Beograd)
1977 Geoff Booth (Campbelltown)

ROTHMANS MEDAL
1978 Bobby Tufts (Cumberland)
1979 Wally Bojczuk (Beograd)
1980 Garrie Dooley (Elizabeth)
1981 Adrian Santrac (Beograd)



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Birkalla's Hayes in record win



Meno Toutsidis

West Adelaide in the PSL for the 1981 season when his former coach Billy Birch was in charge of West.

But Hayes remained at Croatia.

Hayes, who probably has not yet reached his peak, has several seasons of top competition left in him and it would not surprise if he eventually made the switch to the PSL.

But Hayes, the loyal club

man, is likely to remain with Birkalla at least for a few more seasons and help the club establish itself in State League.

Birkalla has a proud history in SA and during the heady days of the 1940s and 1950s, won six State League (then first division) championships and four Federation Cups.

The following players were ineligible for the Rothmans Medal because of suspension during the season.
13 — Harwood (Beograd), 9 — Kay (Para), 6 — A. Webb (Noarlunga), 5 — Piwinski (Polonia), 5 — Brown (Noarlunga), 3 — Caggiano (Croatia), Whaplington (Noarlunga); 2 — Barlick (Beograd), Rooves (Noarlunga), Ryan (Para) — Blute (Croatia), Dunn (Noar.)



The Birkalla table at the Rothmans Medal dinner. From left: Norm Joynes (vice-chairman), Arthur Rutley (coach), Philip Reed (defender), Norm Green (goalkeeper), Terry Hayes (Rothmans Medal winner), Mrs Barbara Barnett (club chairperson). Mrs Barnett is the only female club leader in the South Australian First Division.

Press chooses Heys



The SA branch of the Australian Soccer Press Association (ASPA) had its annual awards last week. Peter Herd (left) of Croatia was voted most consistent and Graham Heys (right) of West Adelaide was judged best player.

Lyndale v. Hellas-Hakoah

Progressive Lyndale United in the Victorian First Division of the Amateur League, takes on State Leaguer Hellas-Hakoah at Barry Powell Reserve, Halton Road, North Dandenong tomorrow night (Thursday).

The game kicks off at 7.30 p.m. A junior curtain raiser between the Lyndale under-12's and Hellas's under-11's kicks off at 6.30 p.m.

CROATIA DANCE

Croatia (Vic) will hold a dance in the bar at Olympic Park No. 2 ground this Saturday night.

The cost is \$6 a head and the night kicks-off at 7.30 p.m. All supporters are welcome. Students and pensioners are admitted for half price.

W.A. best in U-13 titles

Final standings in the national under 13 championships, played in Devonport, Tasmania: 1. Western Australia, 2. Victoria, 3. Northern NSW, 4. NSW, 5. Queensland, 6. Tasmania, 7. Northern Territory

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AZZURRI (S.A.)



SOCCER ACTION

Eastern District Azzurri won the South Australian State league title in style. Azzurri went through the season undefeated, winning 14 matches and drawing 4. The team boasts a wealth of talent brought together over two seasons by coach Frank Schaper who himself has an outstanding record of achievement since coming to South Australia from West Australia.

The squad of 18 contains 16 who have represented either the State or Australia at various levels. Seventeen-year-old David Miller is currently in Lee Schofield's national under 19 team while players like Stewart

Blair (ex-Hakoah Melbourne), Wally Bojczuk and Phil Cole look destined to grace the P.S.L. in 1983.

Schaper came to the club in 1981 after taking local rivals Para Hills from ninth position in the league to runners-up and Top four winners. After 22 years in the wilderness he led Azzurri to a league title, Federation Cup, Top four Cup and Charity Shield win.

This season, the team finished in the semi-final of the Ampul Cup (beaten by Adelaide City), won the league with three games to spare, and are in the Top four competition.

Azzurri (South Australia), from left, front row: Tim Alder, Stewart Tyerman, Terry Kent, Phil Cole, Stewart Blair, Wally Bojczuk, John Francis, Mike Donnelly, Chris Marolev, Mario Boffa.

Back row: Howard Wells (Trainer), Graham McMillan, Frank Michelon, Barry Smith, Rob Boehnke, David Miller, Oesle Michelon, Andy Toland, Steve Whitehead, Frank Schaper (coach).

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